

## Hard X-ray Bursts Detected by the IBIS Telescope Onboard the INTEGRAL Observatory in 2003-2004

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**Abstract.** All of the observations performed with the IBIS telescope onboard the INTEGRAL observatory during the first one and a half years of its in-orbit operation (from February 10, 2003, through July 2, 2004) have been analyzed to find X-ray bursts. IBIS/ISGRI detector lightcurves total count rate in the energy range 15-25 keV revealed 1077 bursts of durations from  $\sim 5$  to  $\sim 500$  s detected with a high statistical significance (only one event over the entire period of observations could be detected by a chance with a probability of 20%). Apart from the events associated with cosmic gamma-ray bursts (detected in the field of view or passed through the IBIS shield), solar flares, and activity of the soft gamma repeater SGR1806-20, we were able to localize 105 bursts and, with one exception, to identify them with previously known persistent or transient X-ray sources (96 were identified with known X-ray bursters). In one case, the burst source was a new burster in a low state. We named it IGR J17364-2711. Basic parameters of the localized bursts and their identifications are presented in the catalog of bursts. Curiously enough, 61 bursts were detected from one X-ray burster – GX 354-0. The statistical distributions of bursts in duration, maximum flux, and recurrence time have been analyzed for this source. Some of the bursts observed with the IBIS/ISGRI telescope were also detected by the JEM-X telescope onboard the INTEGRAL observatory in the standard X-ray energy range 3-20 keV.

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## INTRODUCTION

The X-ray bursts detected by telescopes and detectors onboard orbital astrophysical observatories are mainly associated with thermonuclear explosions on the surfaces of weakly magnetized accreting neutron stars in low-mass X-ray binaries (type-I bursts). Favorable conditions for the accumulation due to accretion of a fairly thick layer of matter on the stellar surface and the attainment of the pressure and temperature required for thermonuclear ignition and explosive burning at its base are created only in such objects. The luminosities of such sources (bursters) at the burst time can increase by two or three orders of magnitude relative to their quiescent state, reaching a critical Eddington level  $L_c \sim 2.5 \times 10^{38} (M/M_\odot)(1 - R_g/R)^{1/2}(1 + X)^{-1} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$ , where  $M$  and  $R$  are the mass and radius of the neutron star,  $R_g = 2GM/c^2$  is its gravitational radius, and  $X$  is the hydrogen abundance.

Solar flares and cosmic gamma-ray bursts (GRBs), events from sources of recurrent bursts (magnetars), and individual events related to unsteady accretion in binary systems (type-II bursts from low-mass X-ray binaries and bursts from high-mass X-ray binaries with accretion from an inhomogeneous stellar wind of the companion star) are also observed in the X-ray energy range. Compared to all these events, type-I X-ray bursts and their sources are of special, independent interest to researchers, because their observational properties are very peculiar and because they carry direct information about the processes near the surfaces of neutron stars under conditions of superstrong gravitational field and pressure, ultrahigh temperatures, and relativistic velocities. The detection of type-I bursts, along with the detection of coherent pulsations, serves as one of the most important and most reliable criteria for identifying the nature of the compact object (a neutron star) in X-ray binaries.

The fact that bursts are commonly observed from weak X-ray sources (or transients during their low state) opens up a possibility for using them in searching for hitherto unknown bursters with persistent X-ray fluxes below the level of reliable detection by currently available wide-field X-ray instruments. Such sources can be detected only during bursts, when their X-ray luminosities increase by tens or hundreds of times for a short time. The INTEGRAL observatory is equipped with unique wide-field telescopes that allow sky fields with an area of more than 1000 square degrees to be simultaneously studied with a flux sensitivity higher than 1 mCrab (over several hours of observations) and an angular resolution reaching several arcminutes. In addition, it devotes up to 85% of the physical time to continuous observations of the region of the Galactic center and the Galactic plane, where the bulk of the Galactic stellar mass is concentrated. Therefore, INTEGRAL is best suited for conducting such a search.

In this paper, to find X-ray bursts, we analyze the time histories of the total count rate from the ISGRI detector of the IBIS telescope onboard the INTEGRAL orbital observatory in the energy range 15-25 keV based on observations during the first one and a half years of its in-orbit operation (from February 10, 2003, through July 2, 2004). For all of the detected bursts, we attempted to localize (using the IBIS sky mapping capabilities) and

identify them with persistent X-ray sources within the field of view. We compiled a catalog of identified bursts and constructed their time histories in a softer X-ray energy range using data from the JEM-X monitor onboard the INTEGRAL observatory if this was permitted by the observational conditions. The maximum objective of this study was an attempt to detect hitherto unknown bursters or short-lived X-ray transients.

## INSTRUMENTS, OBSERVATIONS, AND DATA ANALYSIS

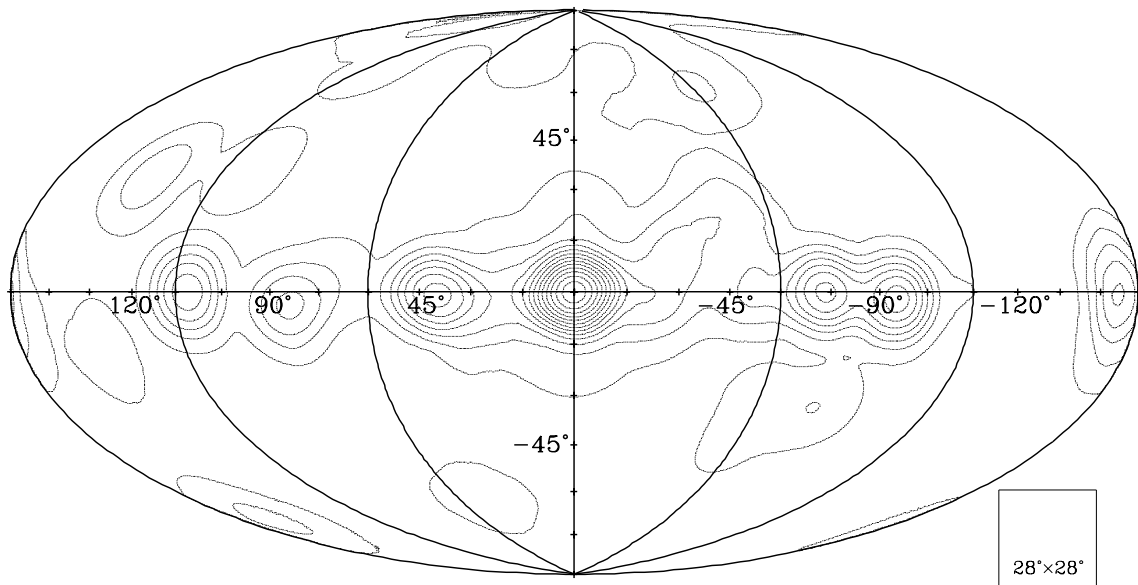
The INTEGRAL international orbital gamma-ray observatory (Winkler et al. 2003) was placed in orbit by a Russian PROTON launcher on October 17, 2002 (Eismont et al. 2003). There are four instruments onboard the observatory: the SPI gammaray spectrometer, the IBIS gamma-ray telescope, the JEM-X X-ray monitor, and the OMC optical monitor. Here, we use data from the upper detector layer (ISGRI) of the IBIS telescope (Lebrun et al. 2003; Ubertini et al. 2003) and the JEM-X monitor (Lund et al. 2003).

The ISGRI detector layer of the IBIS telescope is an array of  $128 \times 128$  semiconductor CdTe elements that are sensitive to photons in the energy range 15-200 keV and that provide an energy resolution of<sup>1</sup>  $\sim 7\%$  at 100 keV. The IBIS telescope incorporates a coded mask that allows this device to be used not only for spectral and timing analyses of the emission, but also for reconstructing the image of the sky region in the  $30^\circ \times 30^\circ$  field of view of the telescope (FWZR, the fully coded area is  $9^\circ \times 9^\circ$ ) with an angular resolution of 12 arcmin (FWHM) and localizing X-ray and gamma-ray sources to within 1-2 arcmin. The JEM-X monitor is also a telescope with a coded aperture, but it is adapted to the standard X-ray energy range 3-35 keV. A gas chamber that provides an energy resolution of  $\sim 16\%$  at 6 keV is used as the position sensitive detector. The  $13.2^\circ$  field of view (FWZR, the fully coded area is  $4.8^\circ$  in diameter) is limited by a collimator. The angular resolution of 3.35 arcmin allows bright sources to be localized more accurately than those with the IBIS telescope.

Our analysis of the data from both telescopes was based on the INTEGRAL standard data processing software package (OSA), version 4.2. We searched for bursts using the time profiles of the count rates for all of the events recorded by the ISGRI detector in the energy range 15-25 keV, irrespective of the photon arrival direction. Based on the list of events compiled at the GTI phase of the OSA 4.2 standard ISGRI data processing procedure, we reproduced the time histories of the count rates for each individual INTEGRAL observation (corresponding to an individual pointing) with a time resolution of 1, 5, and 10 s. A total of 13777 individual INTEGRAL observations from February 10, 2003, through July 2, 2004, were analyzed. All these data are now publicly available in the INTEGRAL archive. The duration of individual observations reached  $\sim 4$ –5 ks; the total exposure time of all the observations used was 33.7 Ms. Figure 1 shows an exposure map for the IBIS observations used here.

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<sup>1</sup>The sources themselves can also be detected accidentally, during deep observations or surveys carried out by very sensitive mirror X-ray telescopes. However, their nature is much more difficult to identify in this case.



**Fig. 1:** Total exposure map of the IBIS pointings used to compile the catalog of bursts detected by the ISGRI detector in 2003-2004. The contours are given at 255 ks steps starting from the 73.4 ks exposure level. The exposure is seen to have reached 3.39 Ms in the direction of the Galactic center. The IBIS field of view is schematically shown in the lower right corner.

The derived lightcurves were analyzed for the presence of bursts. An excess of the signal-to-noise ratio  $(S - \bar{S})/N$  above a preset threshold  $s_0$  in a particular time bin served as a criterion for a burst. The attention was focused on the count rate with a time step of 5 s that is most sensitive (i.e., provides the maximum  $S/N$  ratio in an individual bin) to ordinary X-ray bursts from bursters. Since the number of events recorded by the detector in each time bin obeys a Poisson distribution, there is a low, but finite probability  $p(s_0)$  of recording a random spike even in the absence of a real burst. To filter out such random spikes, we set a fairly high threshold,  $s_0 = 5.1$ . It ensures that the probability of recording one random burst with  $(S - \bar{S})/N \gtrsim s_0$  in the entire time series being checked (with  $M \sim 6.7 \times 10^6$  time bins at a bin length of 5 s) does not exceed  $p(s_0) \times M \simeq 20\%$ . Since the total count rate of the detector depended on the emission from all sources within the IBIS field of view, the mean count rate  $\bar{S}$  and the noise level  $N = \bar{S}^2 - \overline{S^2}$  in our formulas were determined independently from each individual pointing. The results of the described analysis were also checked by a visual examination of the count rate time histories. The same analysis was performed for the time histories with a resolution of 10 s.

For all of the detected bursts, we reconstructed the images of the sky area in the IBIS/ISGRI field of view (the IMA phase of the OSA 4.2 procedure) accumulated with the same exposure at the burst time and immediately before the burst (see Fig. 2). We compared the statistical significance of detecting sources in these images to reveal and identify the burst source.

The entire set of procedures has much in common with the IBAS system of the INTEGRAL observatory: an automatic search for GRBs within the IBIS/ISGRI field of view and a wide spread of notifications of them (Mereghetti et al. 2003). The differences lie in the

**Table 1:** Cross correlation of bursts detected by the IBIS/ISGRI telescope and events in the SPI/ACS and GOES experiments.

Instrument	ISGRI	ISGRI <sup>a</sup>	ISGRI <sup>b</sup> + GOES	ISGRI <sup>b</sup> + ACS	ISGRI <sup>b</sup> + GOES+ACS
Bursts	1077	115	145	86	17

<sup>a</sup>Localized and identified ISGRI bursts.

<sup>b</sup>Nonlocalized ISGRI bursts.

fact that the IBAS system (1) uses a harder and wider energy ranges, (2) GRB-unrelated events were ignored in the period 2003-2004, and (3) the algorithms and programs were developed for realtime automatic work with telemetry data.

## RESULTS

Our analysis of the IBIS/ISGRI detector lightcurves revealed 1077 bursts; the sources of 115 of them were also detected in the images of the sky region in the IBIS field of view. Six such events were caused by cosmic GRBs that occurred within the IBIS field of view. We were able to associate other events, with one exception, with known persistent X-ray sources. To clarify the nature of 962 nonlocalized bursts, we performed their cross correlation with the lists of GRBs and solar flares recorded by the anticoincidence shield (ACS) of the SPI gamma-ray spectrometer onboard the INTEGRAL observatory and by the GOES satellites. The results of this analysis are presented in Table 1.

Table 2 lists the X-ray bursts detected by the IBIS/ISGRI detector and identified with X-ray bursters. Its columns give the burst source name, the maximum flux time, the burst duration  $T$ , the maximum flux determined from a time bin  $\delta T$  of 1, 2, 3, or 5 s, and the statistical significance of detecting the burst source: (a) in the image obtained during the time bin  $\Delta T = 5$  or 10 s near the burst maximum and (b) from the time history of the ISGRI total count rate (from the  $S/N$  ratio in the same bin  $\Delta T$ ). The values of  $\delta T$  and  $\Delta T$  used are given in columns 6 and 10 of the table, respectively. In no case was the corresponding persistent source detected in the image over the period  $\Delta T$  that preceded the burst onset by 1.5-2 burst durations. All of the measurements were performed in the energy range 15-25 keV. The table also gives information about the success of detecting a given burst by the JEM-X monitor. The profiles of the bursts included in the table are shown in Fig. 3.

There are several multi peaked bursts among the events listed in Table 2. For these bursts, column 4 gives the time of the maximum flux over the entire burst, not in the first peak. To determine the burst duration  $T$ , we analyzed the time history of the ISGRI count rate in the corresponding session with a resolution of 1 s. The burst onset and end were defined as the times the count rate exceeded the session-averaged level by 10%. The maximum burst flux was determined when analyzing the image of the sky area in the IBIS field of

**Table 2:** X-ray bursts detected by the IBIS/ISGRI telescope in the 15-25 keV energy range in 2003-2004.

No.	Source	Burst maximum			$T^b$ ,	$(S - \overline{S})/N$		JEM-X <sup>e</sup>		
		Date, UTC	Time, h:m:s	Flux, Crab		$\delta T^a$ , s	IM, $\sigma$	LC <sup>d</sup> , $\sigma$	$\Delta T$ ,	
2003										
1	GX 354-0	28.02	07:55:06	2.52	1	13	12.2	12.9	5	+
2	GX 354-0	01.03	00:04:50	2.48	1	13	12.6	9.4	5	
3	GX 354-0	01.03	16:05:33	3.04	1	11	10.9	7.8	5	
4	GX 354-0	02.03	07:42:22	3.04	1	9	12.9	7.6	5	
5	4U 1636-536	04.03	19:18:02	1.13	2	10	7.9	6.6	5	
6	4U 1702-429	09.03	21:51:13	2.93	1	9	12.1	14.5	5	
7	4U 1608-522	09.03	22:35:05	2.57	1	8	10.8	9.0	5	
8	GX 354-0	12.03	10:22:26	2.70	1	5	11.2	6.7	5	
9	4U 1702-429	12.03	11:11:03	3.09	1	5	9.8	5.2	5	
10	4U 1608-522	13.03	13:49:37	2.61	1	9	12.5	10.1	5	
11	4U 1702-429	15.03	02:38:07	2.44	1	7	14.7	12.3	5	+
12	4U 1702-429	15.03	18:22:49	1.74	2	5	7.8	5.8	5	
13	GX 354-0	15.03	20:36:46	1.22	3	9	8.4	5.6	5	
14	GX 354-0	03.04	08:40:18	3.10	1	6	11.6	8.2	5	
15	Aql X-1	06.04	07:42:15	1.42	2	11	8.4	8.8	5	+
16	4U 1724-307	06.04	18:32:31	1.26	2	18	8.2	5.9	5	
17	GX 354-0	06.04	19:45:29	1.54	2	8	7.2	6.5	5	+
18	GX 354-0	07.04	03:26:31	1.78	1	6	8.1	7.5	5	
19	4U 1636-536	11.04	18:13:18	0.52	6	11	5.8	5.9	5	
20	4U 1702-429	15.04	06:47:16	2.54	1	7	11.9	11.1	5	
21	4U 1812-12	21.04	03:36:36	2.55	1	14	11.8	5.6	10	
22	4U 1812-12	25.04	10:54:25	3.60	1	6	11.9	6.3	5	
23	2S 0918-549	16.06	20:09:13	3.61	1	25	12.8	5.5	5	
24	4U 1702-429	18.08	10:05:10	2.46	1	7	11.9	9.5	5	
25	GX 354-0	24.08	22:20:44	1.69	2	5	8.9	6.7	5	
26	SAX J1712.6-3739	25.08	18:45:43	1.78	2	9	10.1	5.1	5	
27	GX 354-0	27.08	19:59:14	1.82	2	5	8.5	5.9	5	
28	GX 354-0	28.08	01:24:04	0.91	5	7	7.1	8.8	5	+
29	GX 354-0	28.08	06:01:30	1.86	2	7	7.8	5.7	5	+
30	GX 354-0	29.08	14:31:29	2.01	2	5	10.0	6.4	5	
31	GX 354-0	29.08	19:23:36	2.19	2	7	10.4	7.6	5	
32	GX 354-0	31.08	15:54:18	1.13	3	7	7.6	10.1	5	+
33	GX 354-0	03.09	03:26:34	1.62	2	7	10.6	9.5	5	+

<sup>a</sup> - The bin near the burst maximum used to calculate the flux.

<sup>b</sup> - The burst duration.

<sup>c</sup> - The source detection significance in the image during the bin  $\Delta T$ .

<sup>d</sup> - The source detection significance from the detector count rate in the bin  $\Delta T$ .

<sup>e</sup> - The bursts that were also detected by the JEM-X telescope.

Table 2: Contd.

No.	Source	Burst maximum				$T^b$ ,	$(S - \overline{S})/N$			JEM-X <sup>e</sup>
		Date, UTC	Time, h:m:s	Flux, Crab	$\delta T^a$ , s		IM, $\sigma$	LC <sup>d</sup> , $\sigma$	$\Delta T$ ,	
2003										
34	GX 354-0	03.09	08:39:32	1.49	2	5	7.0	6.6	5	+
35	GX 354-0	03.09	18:02:39	1.08	5	6	7.3	5.6	5	
36	4U 1812-12	06.09	00:23:32	4.04	1	19	11.8	9.3	5	
37	GX 354-0	07.09	20:30:07	1.55	5	6	7.8	5.5	5	
38	GX 354-0	08.09	13:41:36	2.66	1	7	8.8	7.1	5	
39	4U 1724-307	08.09	18:48:30	1.48	1	44	12.3	10.2	5	+
40	GX 354-0	08.09	19:41:21	2.63	1	8	11.6	9.8	5	+
41	GX 354-0	09.09	03:11:36	2.95	1	6	13.1	10.9	5	
42	GX 354-0	09.09	16:28:54	1.45	3	7	7.7	8.6	5	
43	GX 354-0	09.09	22:22:24	2.58	1	7	10.0	12.0	5	+
44	GX 354-0	11.09	05:04:28	3.92	1	7	5.9	5.9	10	
45	GX 354-0	11.09	10:57:50	1.99	2	5	6.5	6.8	5	
46	GX 354-0	11.09	21:59:51	2.92	1	5	12.3	13.6	5	+
47	GX 354-0	12.09	03:12:25	2.04	1	4	8.5	9.3	5	+
48	GX 354-0	12.09	09:22:40	2.58	1	11	9.2	8.8	5	+
49	GX 354-0	13.09	16:40:43	1.03	5	9	6.2	6.8	5	
50	GX 354-0	13.09	22:28:39	2.97	1	6	9.2	6.8	5	
51	GX 354-0	14.09	15:02:23	2.72	1	5	9.5	9.2	5	+
52	GX 354-0	14.09	20:55:10	2.17	2	9	6.7	5.3	5	
53	GX 354-0	15.09	09:40:18	1.71	3	6	6.1	7.4	5	
54	GX 354-0	15.09	15:49:09	3.10	1	4	9.2	8.5	5	
55	SLX 1735-269	15.09	17:42:29	2.16	1	450	14.9	18.5	5	+
56	GX 354-0	17.09	02:42:50	2.79	1	5	11.6	6.1	5	
57	GX 354-0	17.09	08:58:31	2.95	1	7	9.8	7.8	5	
58	GX 354-0	18.09	10:33:36	2.42	1	8	9.6	11.3	5	
59	GX 354-0	19.09	16:12:10	3.18	1	5	9.1	14.5	5	+
60	GX 354-0	20.09	05:40:37	3.70	1	12	14.6	10.2	5	
61	GX 354-0	20.09	23:47:03	3.44	1	10	7.4	8.5	5	
62	GX 354-0	21.09	14:07:40	2.93	1	8	11.8	15.4	5	
63	GX 354-0	22.09	17:38:26	2.81	2	6	9.7	7.5	5	
64	GX 354-0	23.09	02:16:11	2.40	1	7	14.6	11.2	5	
65	SLX 1735-269	23.09	05:11:43	1.04	5	9	8.1	7.4	5	
66	GX 354-0	23.09	10:53:38	2.37	1	5	7.7	7.5	5	

<sup>a</sup> - The bin near the burst maximum used to calculate the flux.

<sup>b</sup> - The burst duration.

<sup>c</sup> - The source detection significance in the image during the bin  $\Delta T$ .

<sup>d</sup> - The source detection significance from the detector count rate in the bin  $\Delta T$ .

<sup>e</sup> - The bursts that were also detected by the JEM-X telescope.

Table 2: Contd.

No.	Source	Burst maximum				$T^b$ ,	$(S - \overline{S})/N$		JEM-X <sup>e</sup>	
		Date, UTC	Time, h:m:s	Flux, Crab	$\delta T^a$ , s		IM, $\sigma$	LC <sup>d</sup> , $\sigma$		$\Delta T$ ,
2003										
67	GX 354-0	23.09	18:15:09	2.61	1	6	13.4	9.5	5	
68	SLX 1735-269	23.09	23:13:11	1.05	5	8	6.7	6.6	5	
69	GX 354-0	24.09	03:52:12	3.18	1	10	13.0	8.9	5	
70	GX 354-0	24.09	11:01:26	3.00	1	11	15.2	13.2	5	+
71	SAX J1712.6-3739	24.09	14:00:09	2.18	2	18	11.9	5.0	10	
72	GX 354-0	24.09	18:20:21	2.63	1	5	8.0	5.9	5	
73	4U 1608-522	26.09	02:38:55	3.73	1	14	16.2	12.1	5	
74	4U 1608-522	26.09	15:34:51	3.79	1	11	21.4	18.9	5	+
75	4U 1608-522	27.09	04:03:44	4.95	1	12	21.1	33.2	5	+
76	4U 1812-12	27.09	16:08:45	3.06	1	17	12.1	8.7	5	
77	GX 354-0	04.10	22:06:42	1.68	2	12	6.9	6.8	5	
78	GX 354-0	05.10	09:34:42	2.72	1	6	9.1	5.0	5	
2004										
79	GX 354-0	17.02	04:47:50	3.27	1	7	14.4	11.0	5	
80	IGR J17364-2711	17.02	14:41:30	1.59	1	13	8.7	6.8	10	
81	GX 354-0	27.02	10:55:16	3.08	1	8	10.6	7.8	5	+
82	GX 354-0	27.02	13:32:36	1.53	2	7	7.5	7.1	5	+
83	GX 354-0	27.02	15:32:03	2.11	1	7	9.3	6.6	5	+
84	GX 354-0	02.03	07:34:38	1.52	2	6	7.8	5.8	5	
85	GX 3+1	02.03	09:25:34	0.98	2	7	7.5	6.4	5	+
86	4U 1724-307	03.03	04:14:60	1.40	3	8	9.0	8.3	5	+
87	4U 1608-522	20.03	20:59:32	3.72	1	13	11.2	18.1	5	
88	4U 1608-522	21.03	01:03:47	1.83	1	10	10.4	9.3	5	+
89	Aql X-1	24.03	17:03:35	1.58	2	9	7.0	7.0	5	
90	GX 354-0	29.03	02:40:47	0.99	3	5	6.5	5.6	5	
91	GX 354-0	30.03	03:25:33	1.25	5	4	7.2	7.8	5	
92	SLX 1744-299	30.03	03:37:46	0.81	5	22	7.6	6.6	5	
93	KS 1741-293	30.03	03:43:45	0.88	5	7	6.9	5.7	5	
94	GX 354-0	31.03	03:09:05	0.85	5	4	6.4	5.5	5	
95	GX 354-0	01.04	23:36:53	0.99	5	5	6.3	5.5	5	
96	Aql X-1	28.04	07:54:48	1.96	2	7	8.9	8.1	5	
97	Aql X-1	01.05	22:56:47	1.89	1	10	7.3	8.6	5	+

<sup>a</sup> The bin near the burst maximum used to calculate the flux.<sup>b</sup> The burst duration.<sup>c</sup> The source detection significance in the image during the bin  $\Delta T$ .<sup>d</sup> The source detection significance from the detector count rate in the bin  $\Delta T$ .<sup>e</sup> The bursts that were also detected by the JEM-X telescope.



view reconstructed with the OSA 4.2 software package during  $\delta T$ . The fluxes in Table 2 are in units of the IBIS/ISGRI flux from the Crab Nebula, which allows them to be used for physical estimations, for example, for estimating the burst fluence.

### *A New X-ray Burster*

The X-ray burst no. 80 in Table 2 was detected by the IBIS/ISGRI telescope on February 17, 2004, from a hitherto unknown burster located in the Galactic center region (at  $\sim 27'$  from the source SLX 1735-269). Figure 4a shows an image of the sky area in the field of view (a  $S/N$  map) obtained in the energy range 15–25 keV over 10 s during a burst. The new source that we named IGR J17364-2711, the only statistically significant source in this image, was detected at  $S/N = 8.7$ . Its position,  $R.A. = 17^{\text{h}}36^{\text{m}}28^{\text{s}}$  and  $Decl. = -27^{\circ}11'56''$  (epoch 2000.0), was determined with an accuracy of 2 arcmin<sup>2</sup>. The maximum photon flux reached  $1.6 \pm 0.3$  Crab, which corresponded to a 15–25 keV luminosity  $\simeq 8 \times 10^{37}$  erg s<sup>-1</sup> at the distance of the Galactic center  $d = 8.5$  kpc. The burst spectrum was very soft and the photon flux at energies  $\sim 30$  keV fell below the detection level. Assuming the spectrum to have a Wien shape with a temperature  $kT \simeq 2.5 - 2.8$  keV typical of bursts with photospheric expansion, we find the bolometric luminosity of this burst,  $L_{\text{B}} \simeq (4 - 5) \times 10^{38}$  erg s<sup>-1</sup>. In complete agreement with the assumption of photospheric expansion, this luminosity is actually close to the Eddington limit. Unfortunately, the burst was not detected in the standard X-ray energy range, since during the simultaneous observations with the JEM-X monitor it was at the very edge of the JEM-X field of view, which is narrower than the IBIS one. Thus, it was not possible to refine  $kT$ .

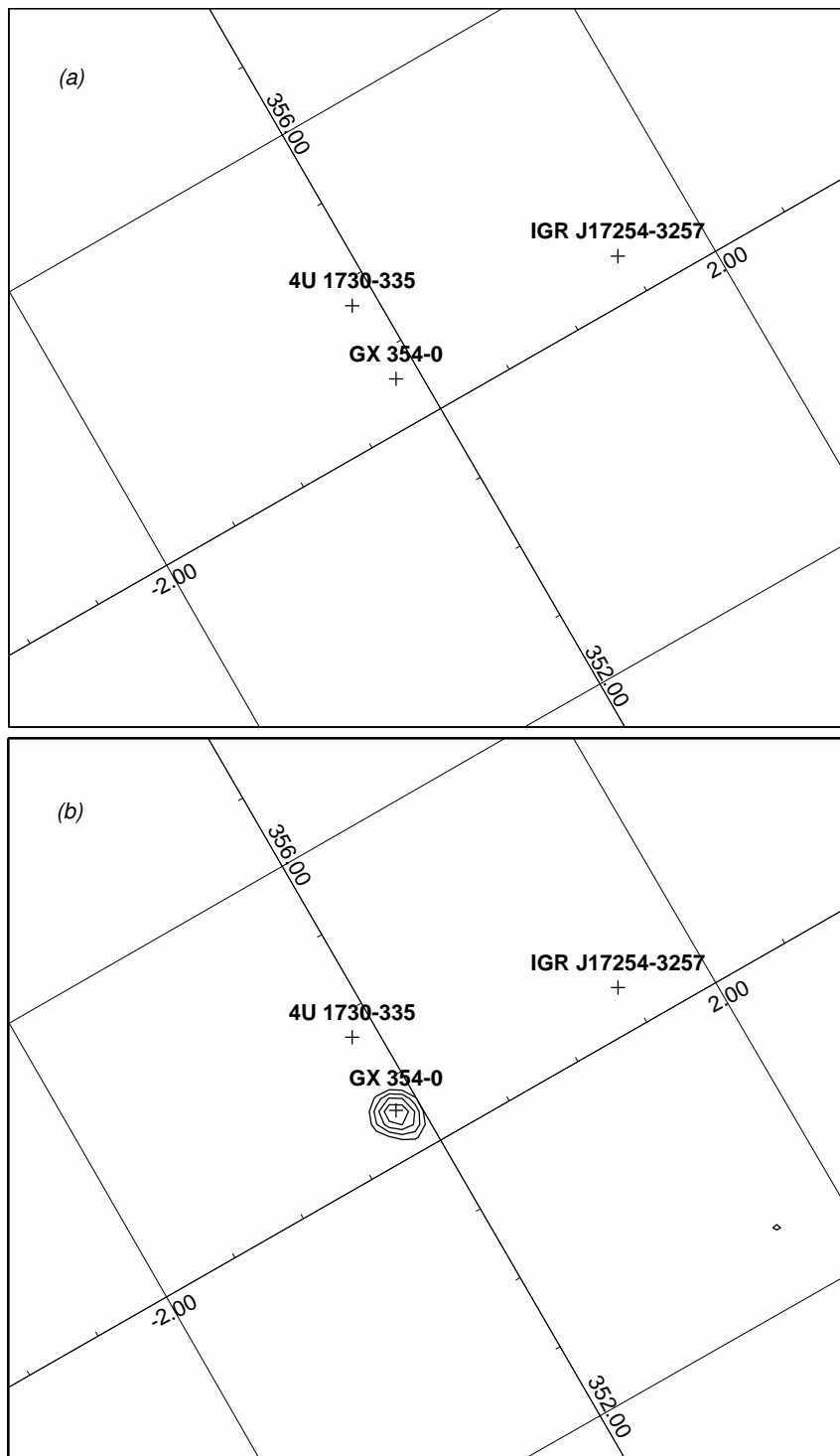
Figure 4b shows an image of the same sky area as that in Fig. 4a, but it was obtained over the entire observing session of February 16–17, 2004, except the pointing during which the burst occurred. In the image, we clearly see four sources detected in this region. There is no IGR J17364-2711 among them. The corresponding  $3\sigma$  limit on its persistent 15–25 keV flux is 4 mCrab. Assuming the source to have a power-law spectrum with an index  $\gamma \simeq 2.1$ , we obtain a fairly stringent limit on its 2–30 keV luminosity,  $L_{\text{X}} \lesssim 1.2 \times 10^{36}$  erg s<sup>-1</sup>. This source complements the list of X-ray bursters (see, e.g., Cocchi et al. 2001; Cornelisse et al. 2002) that have never been observed in a state of persistent X-ray emission, but that have been detected only during rather rare bursts. Note that the nearest source detected in the soft (0.1–2.4 keV) X-ray energy range during the highly sensitive ROSAT all-sky survey, 1RXS J173602.0-272541, is located at an angular distance of  $\sim 15'$  from IGR J17364-2711.

### *Previously Known Bursters*

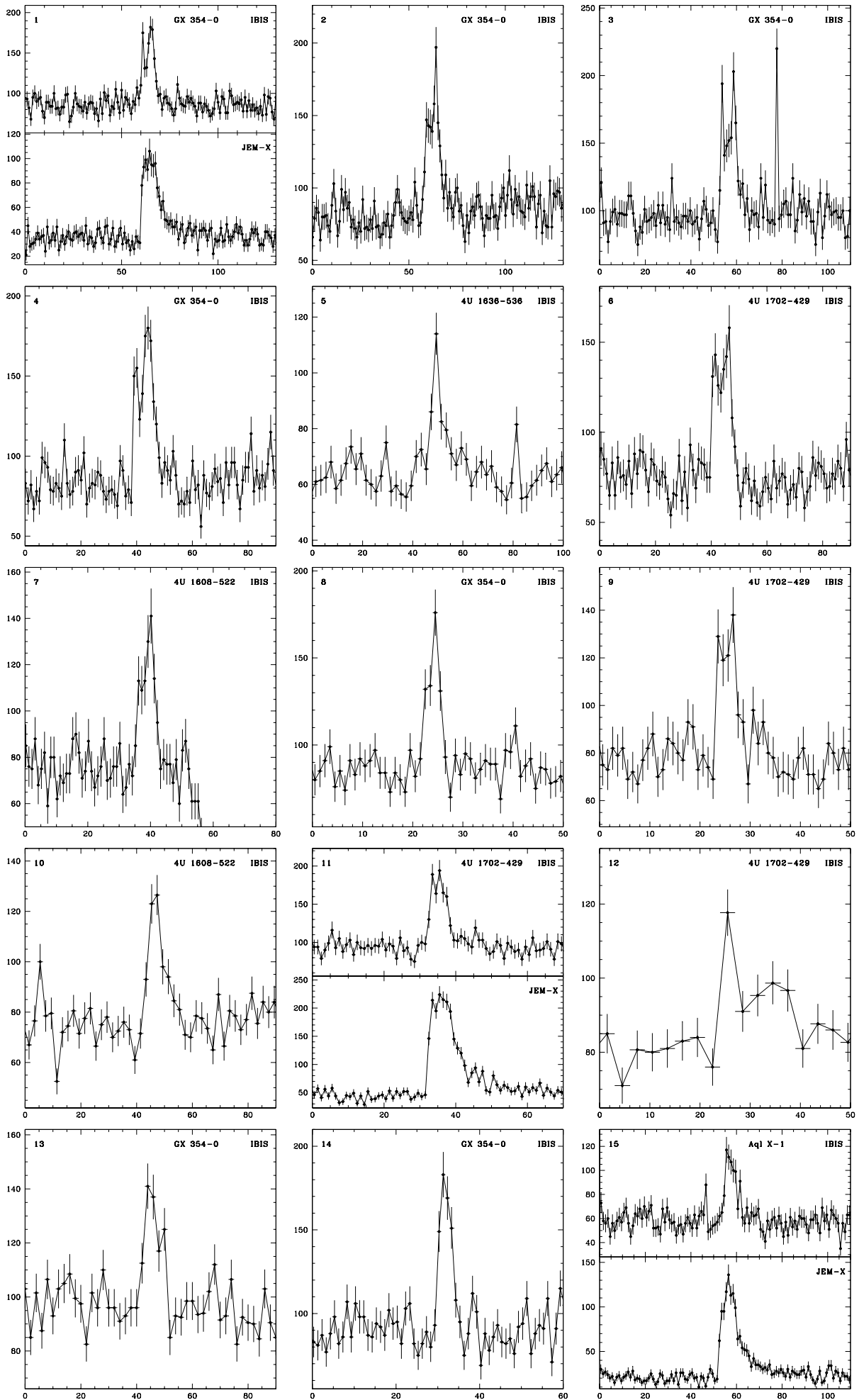
In general, the bursts detected by the IBIS/ISGRI telescope are harder and more intense than ordinary events of this type. Therefore, it is quite pertinent to provide here information about these sources.

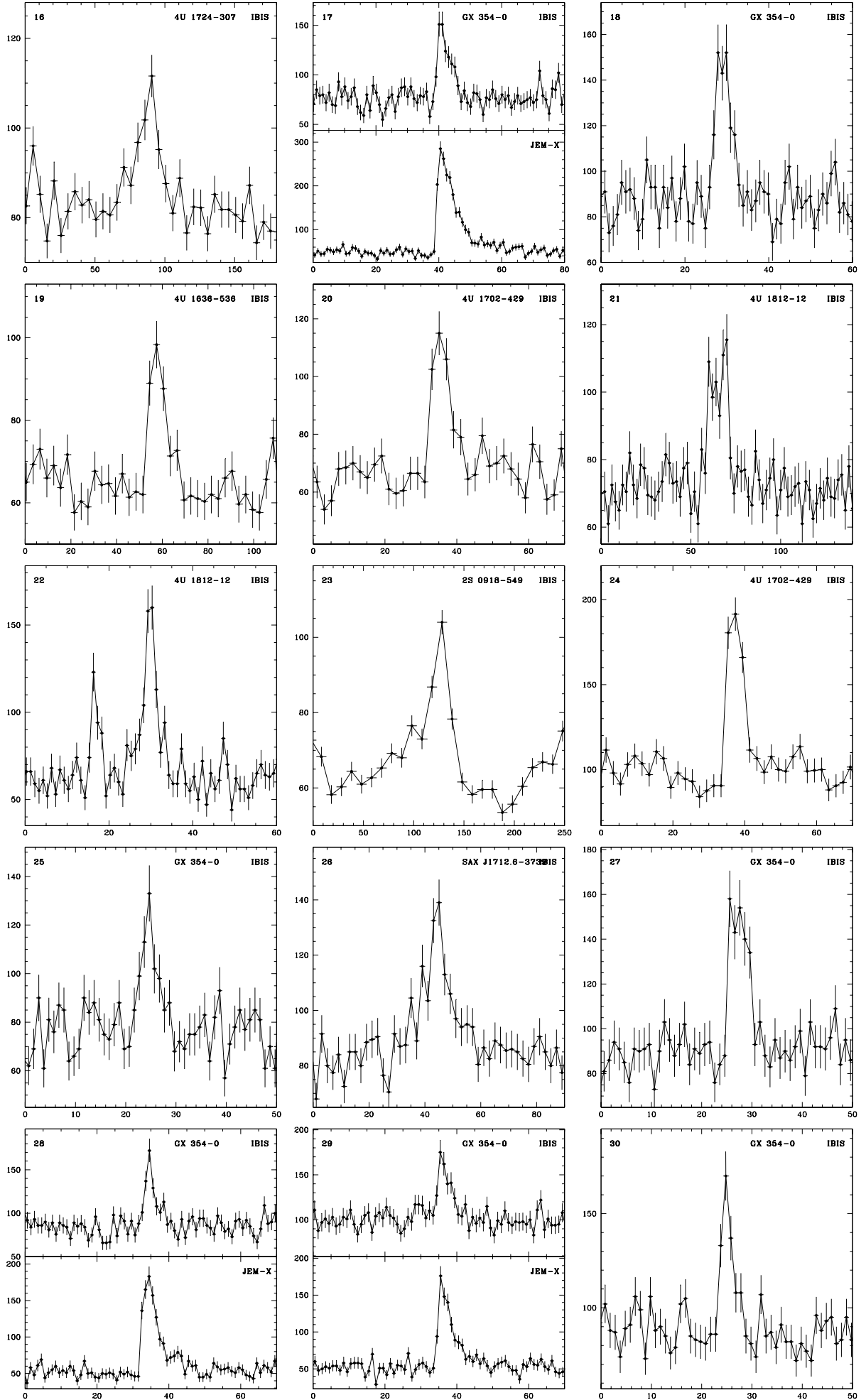
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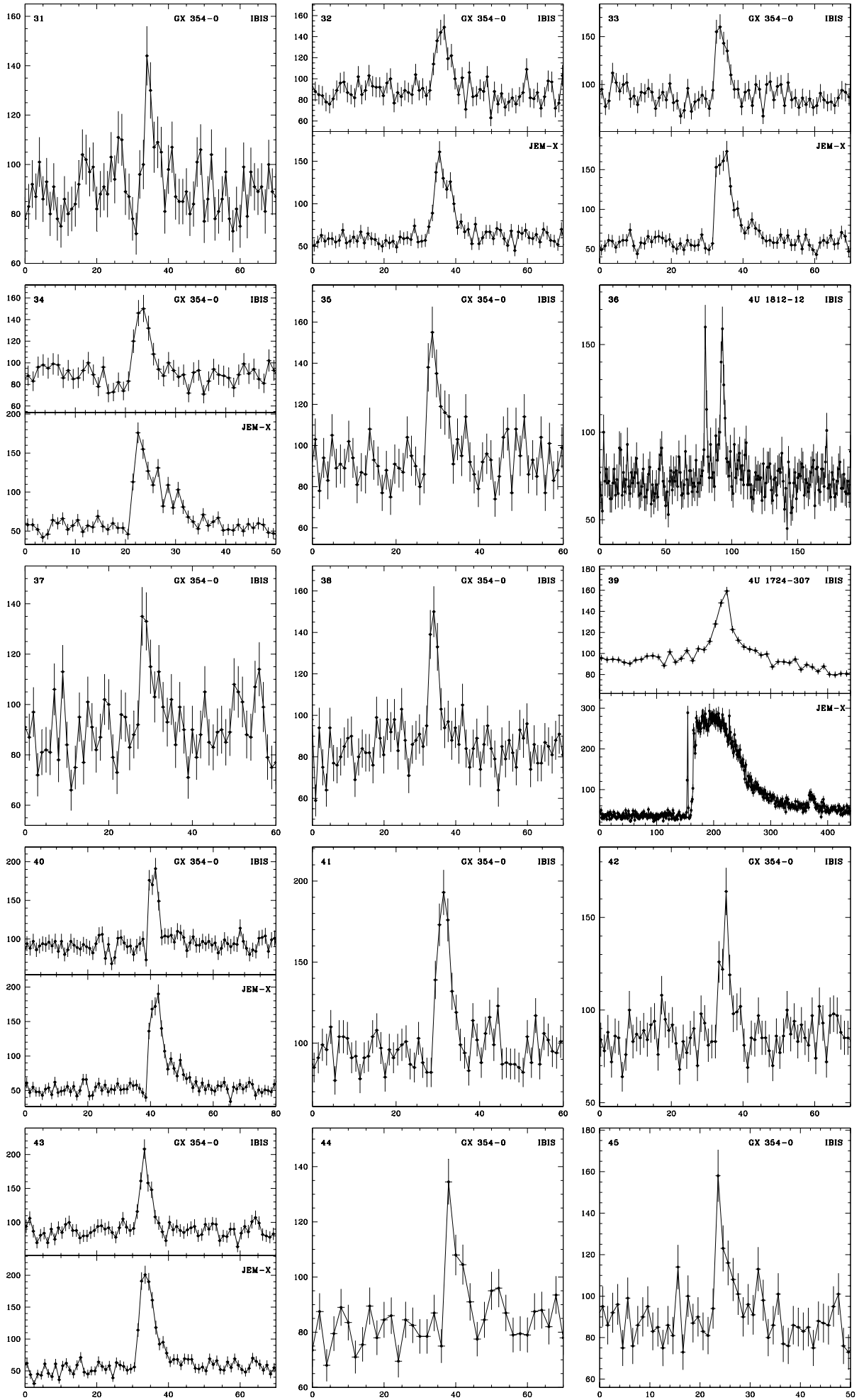
<sup>2</sup>Because of a peculiarity of the IBIS coded mask, there is duality in determining the position of the source in several cases. The other possible position of the source of the burst under consideration,  $R.A. = 17^{\text{h}}38^{\text{m}}05^{\text{s}}$  and  $Decl. = -37^{\circ}49'05''$ , is less likely than the above one, although it cannot be completely rejected.

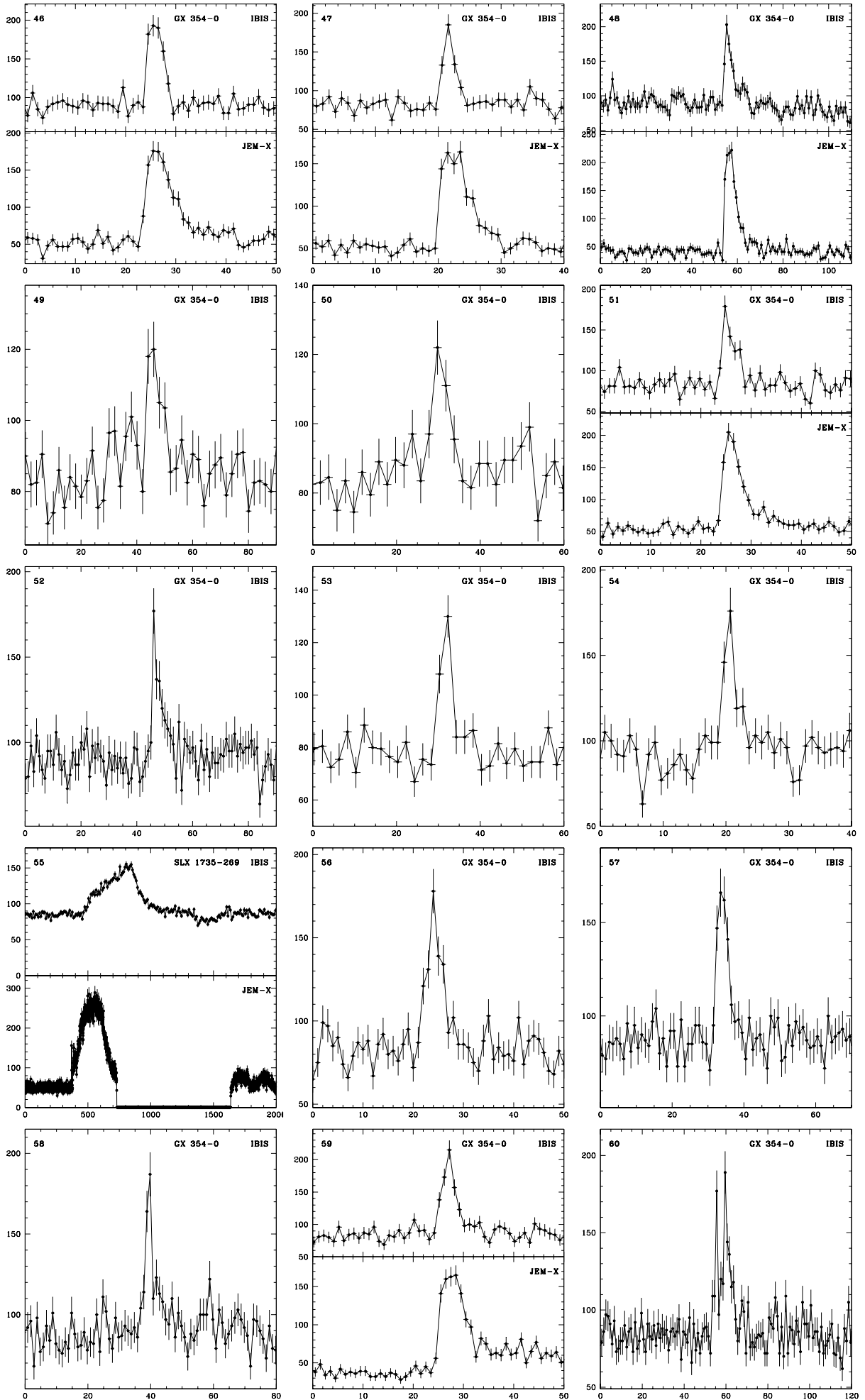


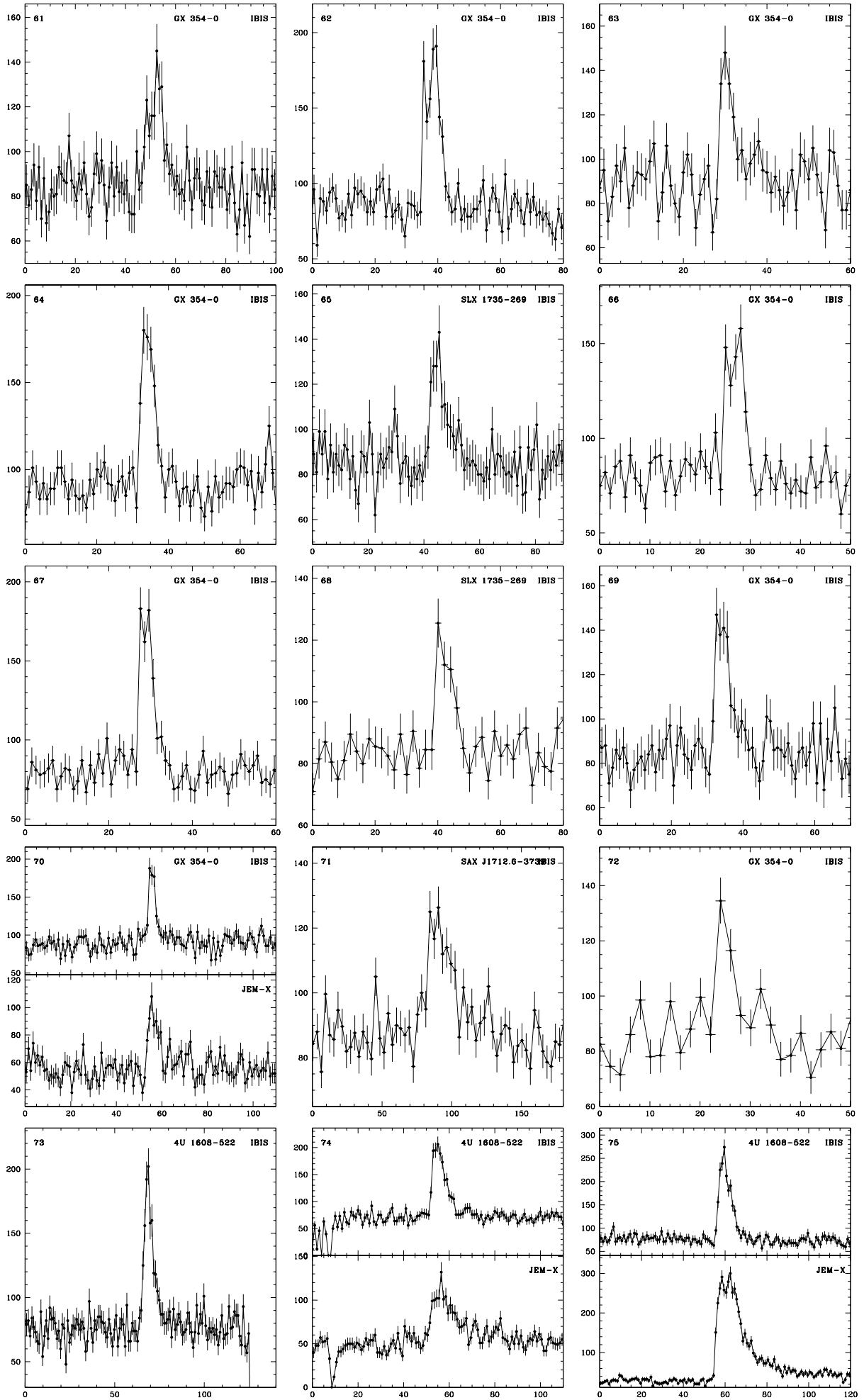
**Fig. 2:** Image of the sky region in the IBIS/ISGRI field of view 10 s before the onset of the burst detected on September 20, 2003, (a) and at its maximum (b). In both cases, the exposure is 5 s and the energy range is 15–25 keV. The contours indicate the region of reliable detection of the source at the signal-to-noise ratio  $S/N = 4, 6.5, 9.1, 11.7$ , and 14.3 standard deviations (given with a logarithmic step of 1.22).

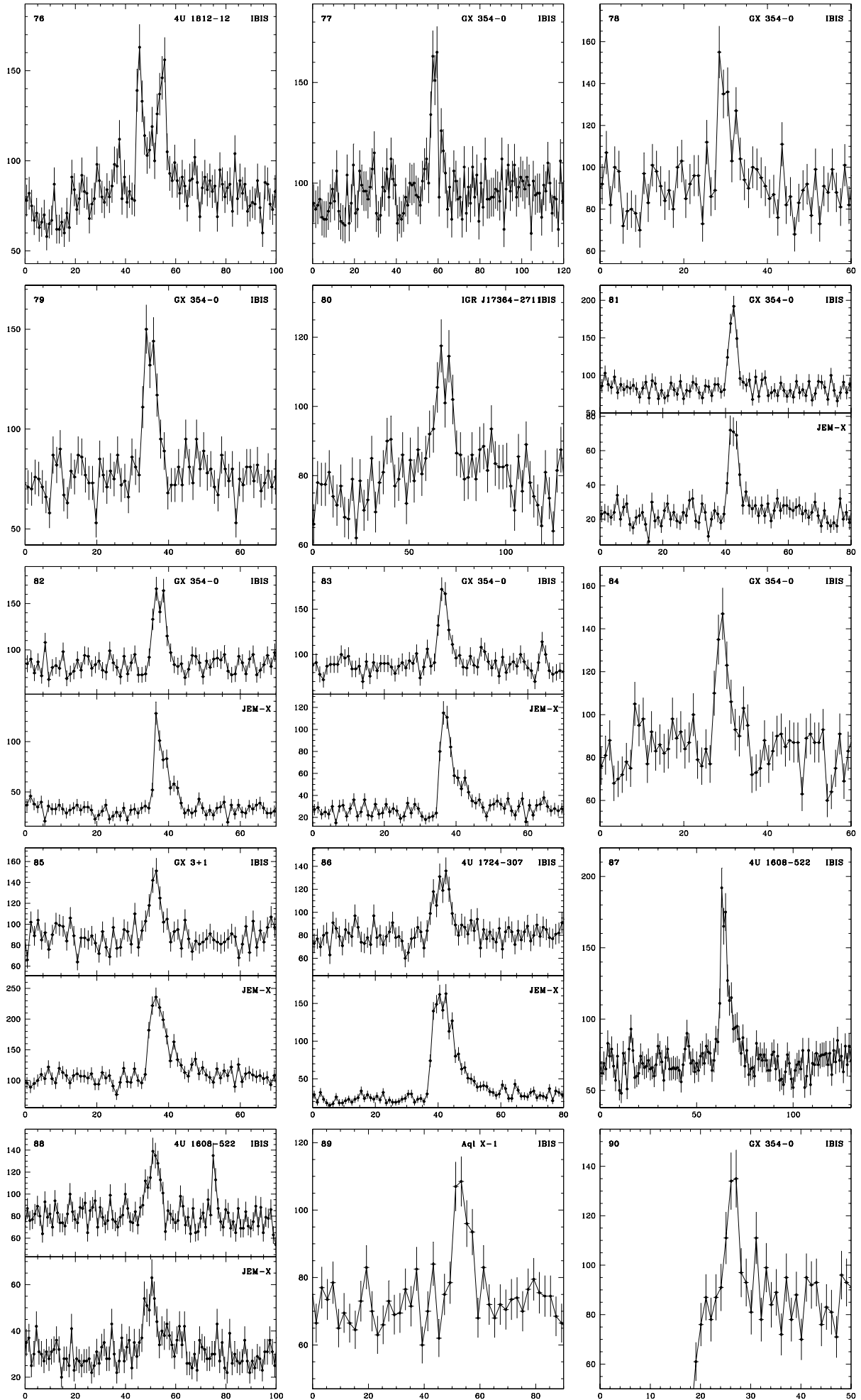




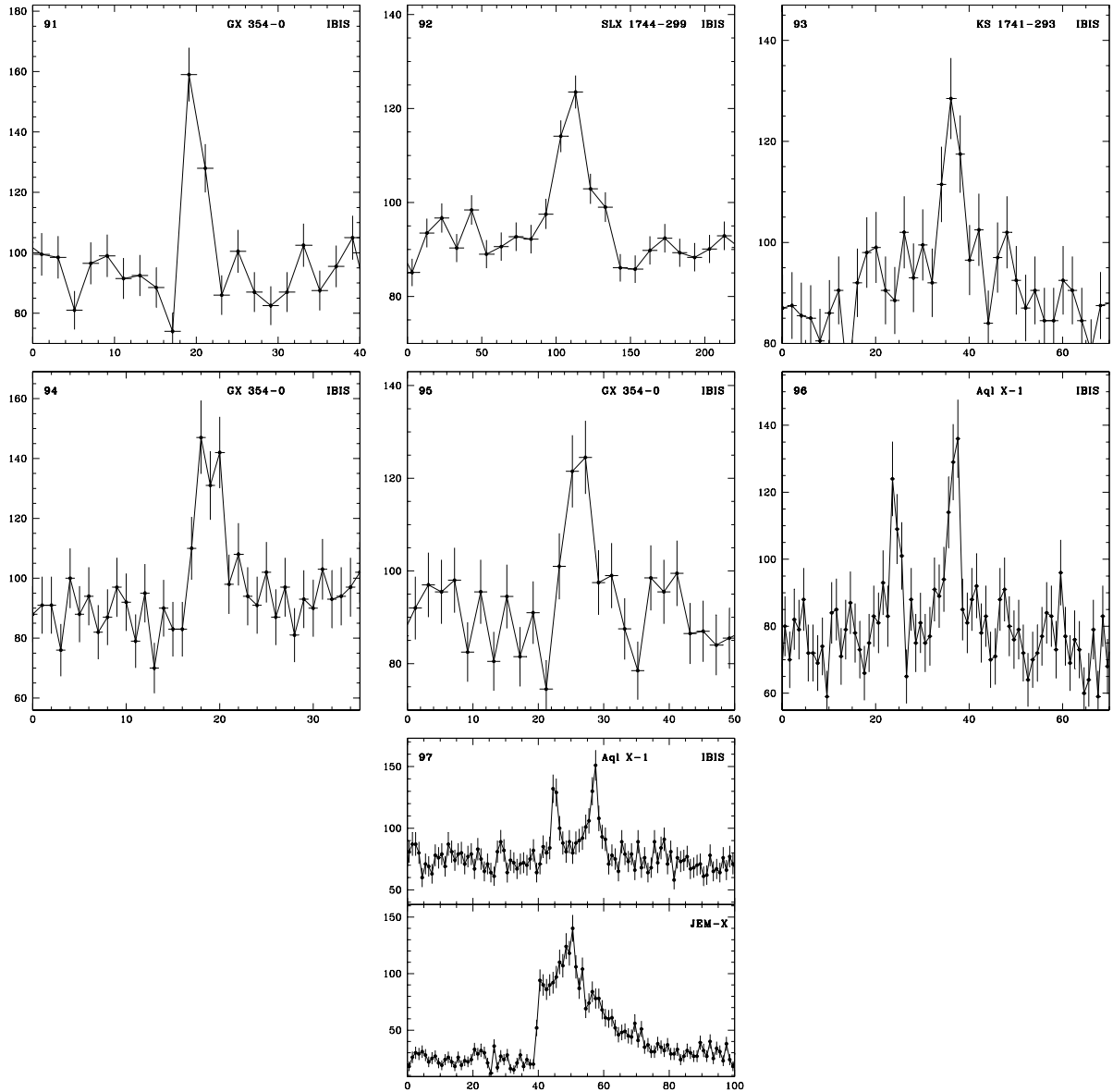




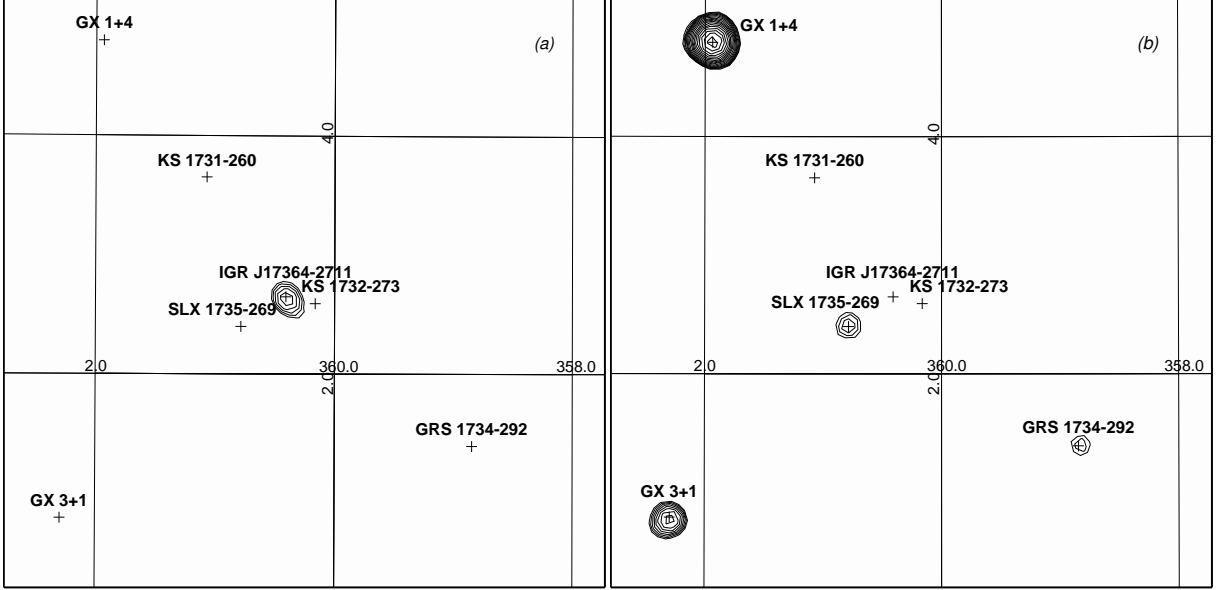








**Fig. 3:** Time profiles of 97 X-ray bursts detected by IBIS/ISGRI in the energy range 15–25 keV and identified with bursters. For the cases where the burst was detected by the JEM-X monitor, the profile is also shown in the energy range 3–20 keV.



**Fig. 4:** Images of the sky area in the IBIS/ISGRI field of view obtained on February 17, 2004, (a) during burst no. 80 detected from the hitherto unknown burster IGR J17364-2711 and (b) during the entire observing session (except the burst time). The exposures were 10 s and more than 93000 s in the former and latter cases, respectively. Both images were obtained in the energy range 15–25 keV. The contours indicate the region of reliable detection of the sources at the signal-to-noise ratio  $S/N = 4, 4.7, 5.5, 6.5, 7.6, 8.9, \dots$  standard deviations (given with a logarithmic step of 1.17).

**2S 0918-549** is a member of a very close X-ray binary with a helium white dwarf as the donor. It was identified as a burster by Jonker et al. (2001). Over the entire history of its observations, seven type-I X-ray bursts (int Zand et al. 2005), including the very long burst observed by the BeppoSAX satellite on October 1, 1996, for  $\sim 40$  min (the exponential decay time was 117 s), have been detected from this source. The remaining bursts did not exceed 6-29 s in duration. The maximum fluxes for most of the bursts reached 2-3 (in the very long burst, 3.7) Crab in the standard X-ray energy range. Two additional weak bursts from the source could not be classified as type-I bursts on the basis of the available data. Analysis of the IBIS/ISGRI data revealed the tenth of the X-ray bursts ever detected from this burster (Table2, burst 23). The maximum 15-25 keV flux was 3.6 Crab.

**4U 1608-522** is known as a soft X-ray transient with a lifetime of 2–3 months and a recurrence time of about one year. The first X-ray bursts from the Norma constellation presumably associated with it were detected by the Vela 5 and Uhuru observatories (Belian et al. 1976; Grindley and Gursky 1976). Subsequently, 22 bursts were detected from 4U 1608-522 by the Hakucho observatory. Their analysis showed a strong correlation between the burst properties and the persistent flux from the source: the burst duration in its on state was  $\sim 8$  s, while in the off state it varied between 10 and 30 s; the maximum burst flux in the latter case was appreciably weaker (Murakami et al. 1980a). Interestingly, although the burst rate generally did not depend on the flux, the two bursts detected in the off state

occurred with an interval of only  $\sim 10$  min (Murakami et al. 1980b). Analysis of the 17 bursts observed from 4U 1608-522 by the Tenma observatory revealed the appearance of a hard component in the sources spectrum both in the quiescent state and during the burst, when the flux fell below a certain level (Nakamura et al. 1989). The hard component during the burst was explained by Comptonization of the blackbody radiation in the high temperature plasma surrounding the neutron star. The double-peaked structure in the soft ( $\leq 6$  keV) energy channels in the profile of the X-ray burst detected from the source in 1987 by the EXOSAT observatory was also explained by Comptonization. No photospheric expansion with which this structure is usually associated was detected in this burst (Gottwald et al. 1987). In 2005, a superburst with a duration of several hours was detected from 4U 1608-522 (Remillard and Morgan 2005; Kuulkers 2005).

Table 2 lists the seven bursts detected by the IBIS telescope from this source: two in March 2003, two in March 2004, and three in September 2003 (bursts 7, 10, 73, 74, 75, 87, and 88). Their detection in the ISGRI energy range is indicative of a fairly large hardness, suggesting that they occurred during the sources low state. The short burst duration of 8-14 s, which is more characteristic of bursts in the sources high state, can again be associated with the hard energy range in which the observations were performed. A decrease in duration in the hard energy channels compared to the soft ones is typical of type-I bursts. The bursts had a classical shape: a fast rise and a slower exponential decay. In the standard X-ray energy range (three events, 74, 75, and 88, were also detected by the JEM-X monitor), a double-peaked structure appeared in the burst profiles near the flux maximum.

**4U 1636-536** has been known as an X-ray burster since 1976, when several bursts were detected from it by the OSO-8 satellite (Swank et al. 1976a). Owing to their high rate and regularity, the bursts from this source were analyzed by all of the succeeding X-ray observatories, including SAS-3, Hakucho, Tenma, EXOSAT, KVANT, RXTE, and BeppoSAX. A significant variability (see, e.g., Lewin et al. 1987) both in the burst profile shape and peak flux (by a factor of 6) and in the recurrence time (by a factor of 24) was found. The IBIS/ISGRI telescope detected two bursts of moderate intensity  $\sim 1$  Crab and duration  $\sim 10$  s (bursts 5 and 19 in Table 2) from this source.

**4U 1702-429** was identified as a burster in 1979 based on observations from the Hakucho satellite (Makishima et al. 1982). Bursts from it may have also been observed previously by the OSO-8 (Swank et al. 1976b) and SAS-3 (Marshall et al. 1977) satellites. Subsequently, bursts from the source were analyzed by the EXOSAT (Oosterbroek et al. 1991), KVANT (Emelyanov et al. 2001), GRANAT (Grebenev et al. 2000), RXTE (Markwardt et al. 1999), and BeppoSAX (Cornelisse et al. 2003) observatories. Analysis of the sources burst activity revealed its variations on a time scale of about one year. Six bursts detected by the IBIS/ISGRI telescope (Table 2, bursts 6, 9, 11, 12, 20, and 24) were identified with 4U 1702-429. The first three bursts had a double-peaked feature in the profile near the flux maximum (Fig. 3). For burst 11 observed by the JEM-X monitor, such a structure was also found in the profile in the standard X-ray energy range. These profiles were generally morphologically similar and the burst began almost simultaneously in both energy ranges.

On the other hand, the peak flux was reached earlier and the burst lasted longer in the standard energy range.

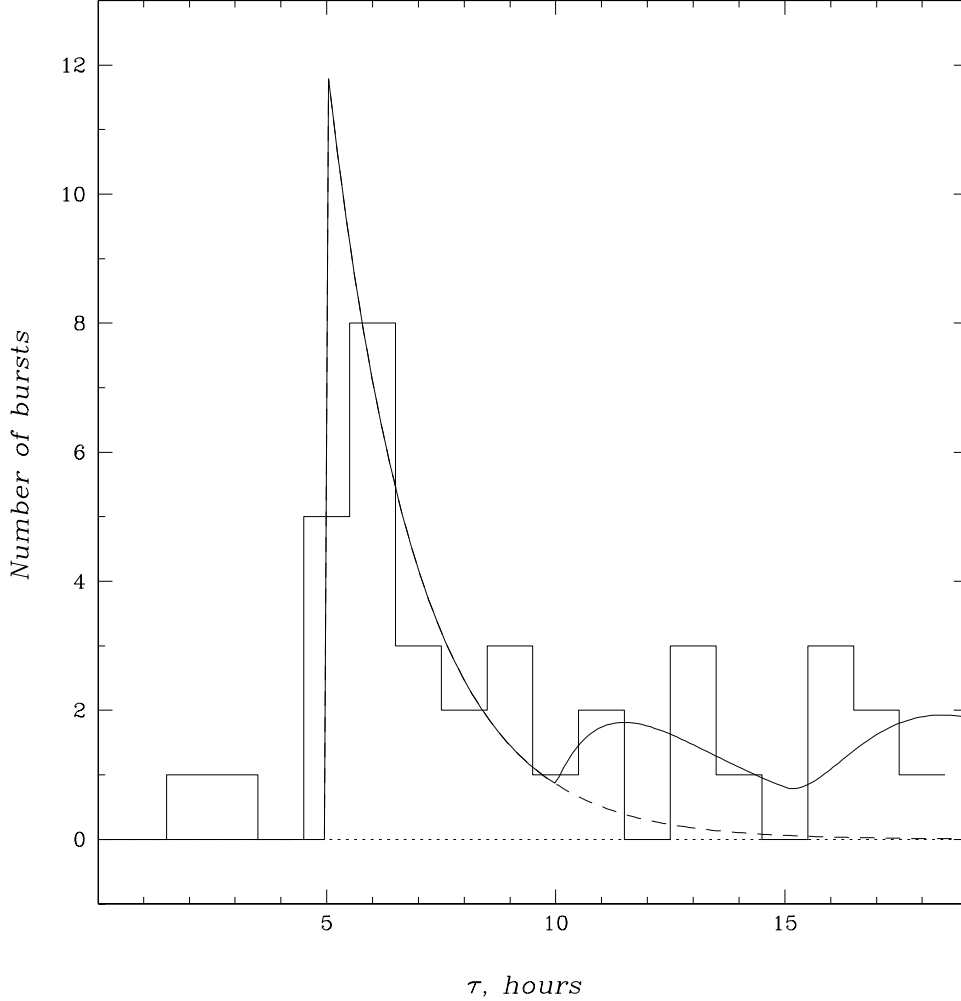
**The X-ray transient SAX J1712.6-3739** was discovered by the BeppoSAX observatory on August 24, 1999, at the time of its outburst (int Zand et al. 1999). The weak ( $\sim 1.6$  mCrab in the energy range 0.1–2.4 keV) X-ray source 1RXS J171237.1-373834 from the ROSAT all-sky survey fell within the error circle. Several days later, on September 2, 1999, a type-I X-ray burst was detected by BeppoSAX from this direction after the fading of the transient (Cocchi et al. 1999). This burst has long remained the only known one. Using the IBIS/ISGRI telescope, we were able to detect two more bursts from the source (nos. 26 and 71 in Table 2). Both bursts had a triangular profile. We failed to trace the evolution of the bursts in the standard X-ray energy range, since the source was outside the JEM-X field of view in both cases.

**The burster 4U 1724-307** is located in the globular cluster Terzan 2. Grindley (1978) showed that 4U 1724-307 was the source of the intense and long ( $\gtrsim 300$  s) burst detected in 1975 by the OSO-8 satellite (Swank et al. 1977). At least three additional intense bursts similar to the 1975 burst with strong photospheric expansion have been detected to date from the source (by the ART-P telescope onboard the GRANAT observatory, the PCA instrument onboard the RXTE observatory, and the MECS instrument onboard the BeppoSAX observatory; Guainazzi et al. 1998; Molkov et al. 2000). More than twenty weaker bursts have also been detected.

In Table 2, three bursts (16, 39, and 86) are associated with this source. Burst 39 supplements the list of its known superstrong bursts. Since the source was at the center of the IBIS and JEM-X field of view at the time of this burst, Fig. 3 shows the time profiles of this event in two energy ranges. We see from this figure that they differ greatly: whereas in the soft energy range the burst had a narrow precursor and a broad main event with a sharp rise and a long ( $\sim 200$  s) exponential decay, i.e., had all of the features characteristic of type-I bursts (Hoffman et al. 1977), in the hard energy range it had an almost triangular profile, the flux reached its maximum considerably later than in the soft energy range, and the burst itself lasted only  $\sim 45$  s. Note that burst 86, which was also detected by JEM-X, in the soft energy range has a profile that does not differ greatly from its IBIS profile.

**GX 354-0 (4U 1728-337)** clearly stands out among the bursters from which the IBIS/ISGRI telescope detected X-ray bursts. This source is responsible for 61 bursts in Table 2. Discovered in 1976 (Lewin 1976; Hoffman et al. 1976), it rapidly became one of the best known bursters. Its burst recurrence time ranges from several hours to several tens of hours. The large number of bursts detected from GX 354-0 by the IBIS/ISGRI telescope allowed the statistical distributions of its bursts in recurrence time, duration, and maximum flux to be analyzed.

Figure 5 shows the distribution of X-ray bursts in recurrence time  $\tau$  (the interval between the detection times of two successive events). We took into account only 36 events with  $\tau \leq 20$  h. Since the time of continuous observations of the source usually did not exceed 20 h,



**Fig. 5:** Distribution of bursts from the X-ray burster GX 354-0 in recurrence time and its model fit described in detail in the text.

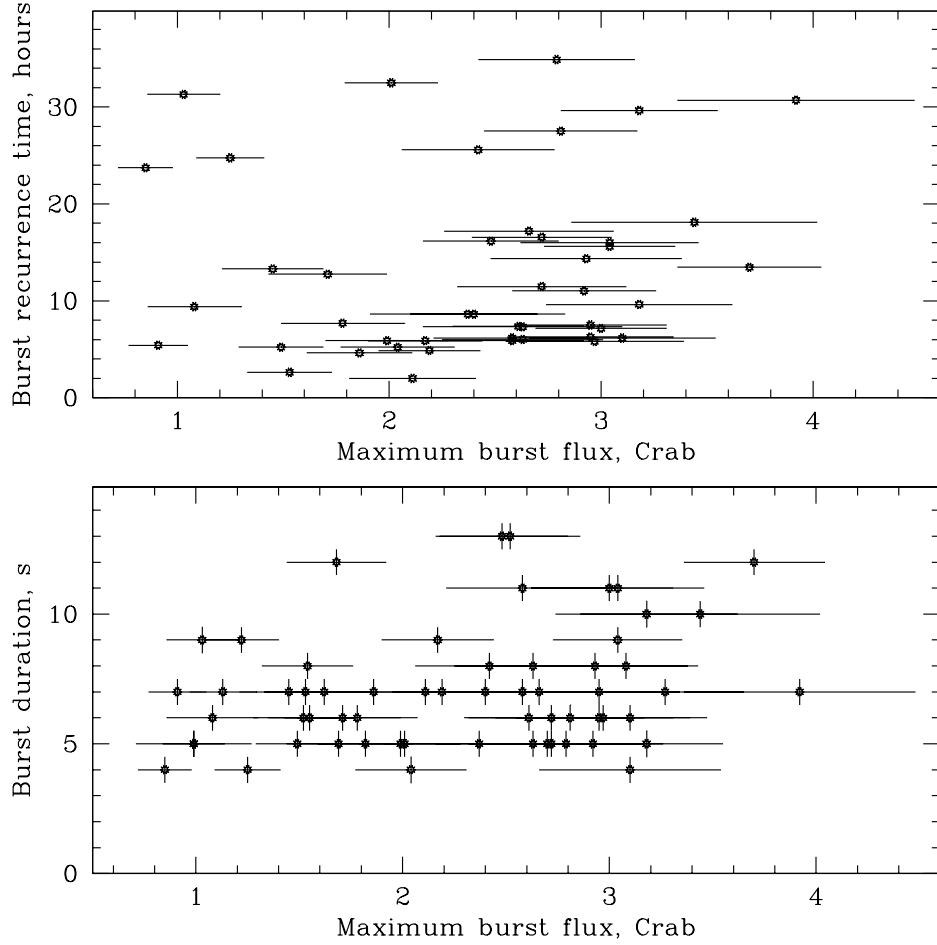
bursts that were not detected by the detector are almost certain to have occurred between more widely spaced events. Assuming that the properties of the continuum emission from the source (e.g., the accretion rate) did not change and that the distribution of bursts in  $\tau$  generally obeyed Poissonian statistics, we fitted it by the formula

$$\frac{dN}{d\tau} = N_0 \lambda e^{-\lambda(\tau - \tau_0)} \theta(\tau - \tau_0).$$

Here, the function

$$\theta(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } x < 0 \\ 1, & \text{if } x \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

takes into account the threshold nature of thermonuclear flashes (the next burst can occur only after the time  $\tau_0$  it takes to accrete a critical mass of matter on the stellar surface) and  $\lambda$  specifies the mean burst rate. We additionally took into account the fact that some of the bursts could be missed. Therefore, the events corresponding to double



**Fig. 6:** Recurrence time and duration of the X-ray bursts detected from the burster GX 354-0 vs. maximum flux during the burst.

$$\frac{dN^{(2)}}{d\tau} = a_2 N_0 \lambda^2 (\tau - 2\tau_0) e^{-\lambda(\tau - 2\tau_0)} \theta(\tau - 2\tau_0)$$

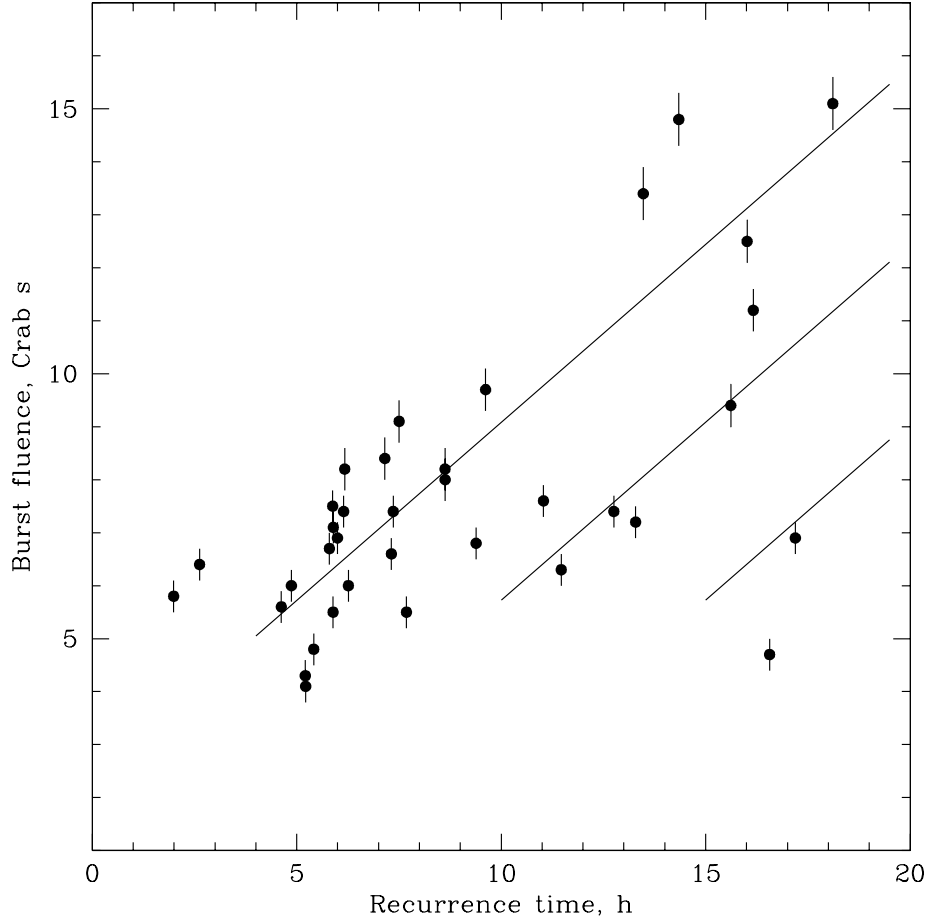
and triple the recurrence time

$$\frac{dN^{(3)}}{d\tau} = a_3 N_0 \lambda^3 \frac{(\tau - 3\tau_0)^2}{2} e^{-\lambda(\tau - 3\tau_0)} \theta(\tau - 3\tau_0).$$

may be present in Fig. 5.

As the solid curve in Fig. 5 shows, the above formulas provide satisfactory agreement with the observational data. The  $\chi^2$  value normalized to  $N = 15$  degrees of freedom is  $\chi_N^2 = 1.17$ . The best-fit parameters are  $\lambda = 0.53 \pm 0.05 \text{ h}^{-1}$  and  $\tau_0 = 5.0 \pm 0.7$  hours. The fraction of the events that were mistaken for successive ones proved to be fairly large,  $a_2 = 0.3 \pm 0.1$  and  $a_3 = 0.5 \pm 0.1$  (their contribution is indicated by the dashed line in the figure). The mean burst recurrence time for this source is  $\langle \tau \rangle = \tau_0 + 1/\lambda \simeq 6.9$  hours.

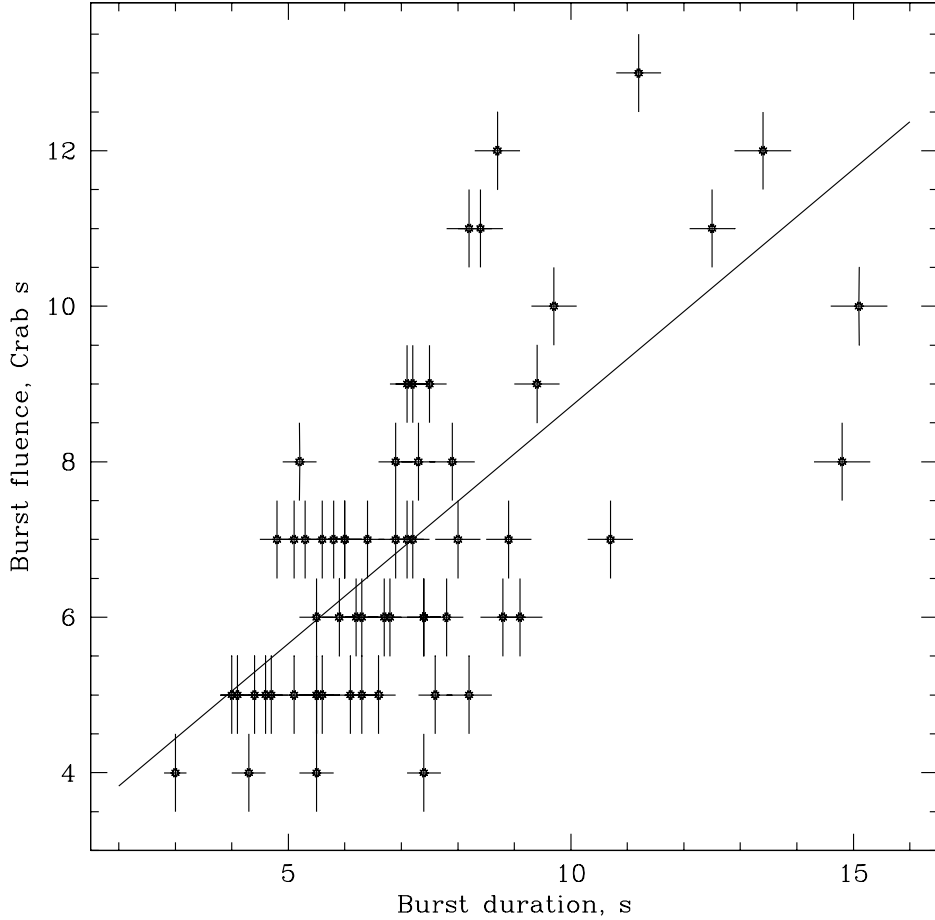
In Fig. 6, burst recurrence time  $\tau$  (upper panel) and duration  $T$  (lower panel) are plotted against maximum flux  $F$ . We failed to find any regularities in the relationship between these quantities. However, if we examine the relationship between the burst fluence (a



**Fig. 7:** Fluence of the bursts detected from the burster GX 354-0 vs. duration of the quiescent period preceding the burst and its linear fit. Some of the data points corresponding to long recurrence times and low fluences are associated with the misses of the bursts occurred during the INTEGRAL slewing.

quantity equal to the product of the mean flux and the duration,  $E = \langle F \rangle T$ ) and the recurrence time  $\tau$ , a certain regularity shows up (Fig. 7). We fitted it by a linear law  $E = E_0 + A\tau$ . This behavior seems natural: the longer the interval between the bursts is, the more matter is accumulated on the neutron star surface and the more intense the coming burst is. It may even be assumed that  $A \simeq \langle F_X \rangle / \alpha$ , where  $\langle F_X \rangle$  is the mean continuum flux from the source (in units of the flux from the Crab Nebula) and  $\alpha \sim 100$  is a factor that shows the extent to which the energy release via accretion is more efficient than the energy release through thermonuclear burning. The situation was slightly complicated by the presence of events corresponding to multiple recurrence times in the sample. To reduce their influence, we included only events with  $3 \text{ h} \leq \tau \leq 10 \text{ h}$  in our fit. The derived parameters are  $E_0 = 2.36 \pm 1.57 \text{ Crab s}$  and  $A = 0.67 \pm 0.23 \text{ Crab s h}^{-1}$ . The corresponding mean flux is  $\langle F_X \rangle \simeq A\alpha \simeq 19 \text{ mCrab}$ .

In Fig. 8, burst fluence is plotted against burst duration  $T$ . Here, we also see a regularity whose fitting by a linear law  $E = E_1 + BT$  yielded  $E_1 = 2.61 \pm 0.60 \text{ Crab s}$  and  $B =$



**Fig. 8:** Fluence of the bursts detected from the burster GX 354-0 vs. burst duration and its linear fit.

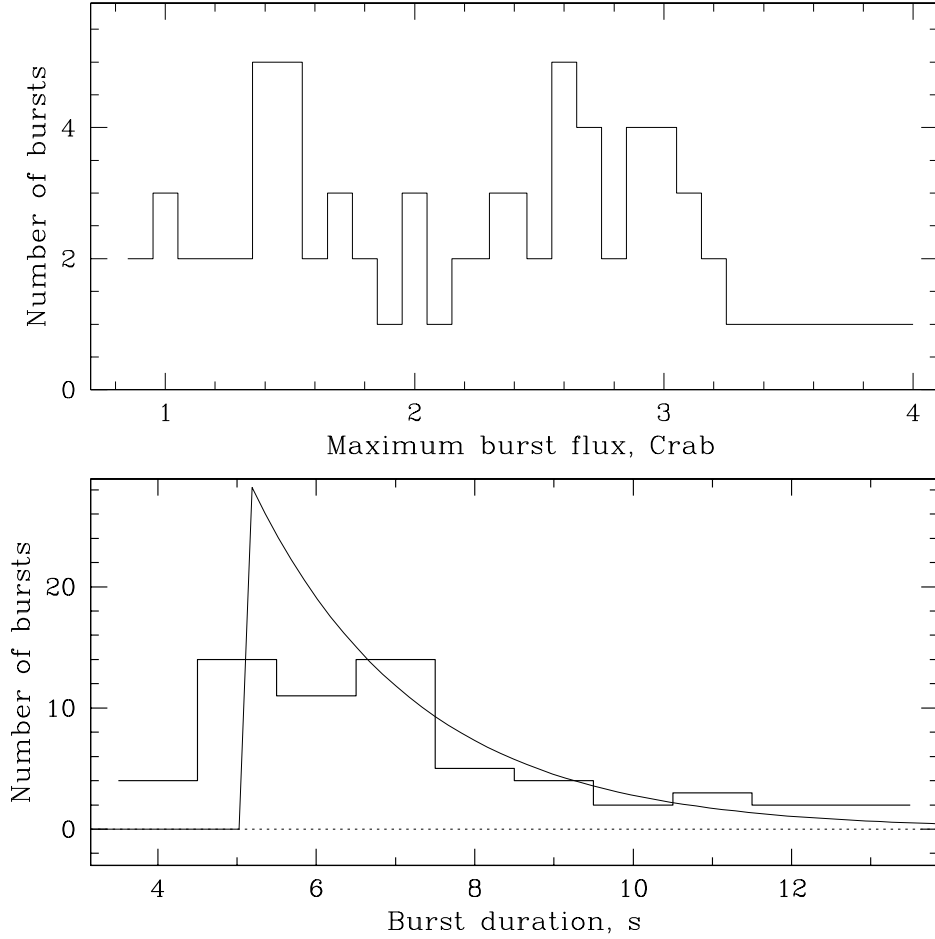
$0.61 \pm 0.08 \text{ Crab s s}^{-1}$ . Such a linear dependence naturally arises in the case of intense bursts with near-Eddington fluxes, but it apparently remains qualitatively valid for weaker bursts as well.

Figure 9 shows the distributions of the detected bursts in maximum flux  $F$  and duration  $T$ . On the whole, the bursts are distributed in flux fairly uniformly up to 3.2 Crab. An excess of bursts is observed in the regions of maximum fluxes  $\sim 1.5$  and  $2.2\text{--}3.2$  Crab. At this juncture, it is probably premature to talk about the existence of two types of bursts characteristic of this source. The distribution of bursts in duration is more nonuniform. Most of the bursts have durations in the range 5–7 s. Using the above dependences  $dN/d\tau$ ,  $E(\tau)$ , and  $E(T)$ , we can attempt to approximate the distribution of the detected bursts in duration:

$$\frac{dN}{dT} = \frac{dN}{dE} B = \frac{dN}{d\tau} \frac{B}{A},$$

where  $\tau = (BT + E_1 - E_0)/A$ . The result of this approximation is indicated in Fig. 9 by the solid line. We had to correct the normalization of this distribution to allow for the difference in the numbers of bursts presented in Figs. 5 and 9.





**Fig. 9:** Distributions of bursts from the X-ray burster GX 354-0 in (top) burst maximum flux and (bottom) burst duration. In the latter case, the solid curve also indicates the model fit to the observed distribution (see the text).

**SLX 1735-269** has a hard power-law X-ray spectrum. As a result, the nature of its compact object has long remained uncertain (see, e.g., Grebenev et al. 1997). The first X-ray burst from this source that put an end to the debate about its nature was detected only recently (Bazzano et al. 1997). In Table 2, this burster is responsible for bursts 55, 65, and 68. The properties of the first burst with an unusually long duration ( $\sim 450$  s in the IBIS/ISGRI energy range and more than 1500 s in the JEM-X energy range) were studied in detail by Molkov et al. (2005). The burst was so intense that it led to a saturation of the JEM-X telemetry channel and the filtering switchon. This is why its profile has an unusual shape in the standard X-ray energy range in Fig. 3. Molkov et al. (2005) provided a reconstructed X-ray profile of this burst. Bursts 65 and 68 lasted  $\sim 10$  s and were considerably less intense than the first burst.

**The transient KS 1741-293** was discovered and identified as a burster (two bursts) by the KVANT module during its outburst of August 20–22, 1989 (int Zand et al. 1991). It was at the very edge of the error circle for the source of the X-ray bursts detected by the SAS-3 satellite from the Galactic center region (MXB 1743-29; Lewin et al. 1976). This

may be the same source. However, since the position of MXB 1743-29 is inaccurate and the region is densely populated, a chance coincidence seems more likely. Besides, as Zand et al. (1991) pointed out, the time profiles of their bursts and the bursts detected by the SAS-3 satellite differ greatly.

KS 1741-293 was in a higher state during the INTEGRAL observations of the Galactic center region in the spring of 2003 (Belanger et al. 2004) and the spring of 2004 (Grebenev et al. 2004). The only burst identified with it in Table 2 (burst 93) was detected on March 30, 2004.

**GX 3+1 (4U 1744-265)** is one of the brightest X-ray sources in the field of the Galactic center. It has been known as a burster since 1983 (Makishima et al. 1983). The IBIS/ISGRI telescope detected one burst (no. 85 in Table 2) of moderate intensity from it with an almost triangular profile. In the soft X-ray energy range (the burst was also detected by the JEM-X monitor), its profile was closer to the canonical profile of a type-I burst (Fig. 3).

**SLX 1744-299** was discovered by the Spacelab-2 observatory in 1987 (Skinner et al. 1987). Subsequently, an X-ray burst was detected from this direction (Skinner et al. 1990); it showed that, in fact, a pair of close (separated by only  $\sim 2.8'$ ) sources, SLX 1744-299 and SLX 1744-300 (the latter is a burster), is hidden here. In 1990, five more bursts, including a very intense and long ( $\sim 300$  s) burst, were detected during intensive observations of the Galactic center region by the ART-P telescope onboard the GRANAT observatory (Pavlisnky et al. 1994). The long burst was identified with SLX 1744-299; i.e., the first source also turned out to be a burster. The IBIS/ISGRI telescope detected burst 92 in Table 2 from these sources.

**4U 1812-12** was first identified as a burster by Murakami et al. (1983). Since then and until the INTEGRAL observations, a total of 12 bursts were detected from it (Fleischman et al. 1985; Cocchi et al. 2000). Four of the bursts detected by IBIS/ISGRI were associated with this burster (bursts 21, 22, 36, and 76 in Table 2). All these bursts had a distinct double-peaked profile structure; bursts 22, 36, and 76 may be said to have two separate peaks of equal amplitude spaced 15-20 s apart. Similar profiles were observed for most of the bursts detected in 1996-1999 by the BeppoSAX observatory (Cocchi et al. 2000). This was explained by the attainment of a super-Eddington luminosity during the burst and was used to estimate the distance to the source,  $\simeq 4$  kpc.

**The transient burster Aql X-1 (4U 1908+005)** has much in common with 4U 1608-522 discussed above. X-ray bursts from it were first observed in May 1980 by the Hakucho observatory (Koyama et al. 1981). The IBIS/ISGRI telescope detected four bursts from this burster during the period of observations under consideration (bursts 15, 89, 96, and 97 in Table 2). Bursts 15 and 97 were also observed by the JEM-X monitor. The detection of burst 15 by JEM-X was first reported by Molkov et al. (2003), who discussed in detail the INTEGRAL observations of the X-ray outburst of the source occurred in the spring of 2003. These authors also mentioned the detection of another X-ray burst  $\sim 2.5$  h after the first burst. Our analysis shows that this burst was too soft to be detectable by ISGRI. The

time profiles of bursts 96 and 97 in the hard energy range have a double-peaked structure with a detached precursor. In the soft energy range (at least for burst 97), the precursor merges with the main event and the maximum flux is reached in the interval between the two hard peaks. The burst duration in the X-ray energy range appreciably exceeded its duration at hard energies.

### *Other Burst Sources*

We were able to associate 18 of the localized bursts with sources unrelated to bursters. Given the peculiarities of this work, we only mention them. One, two, and five bursts were detected from the microquasar GRS 1915+105, the pulsar Vela X-1, and the source 4U 1700-377, respectively. Four bursts were identified with the soft gamma repeater SGR 1806-20 (see also Gotz et al. 2005). Six bursts were identified with GRBs occurred in the IBIS field of view (they were previously detected by the IBAS system). A total of 10 GRBs were detected in the IBIS field of view over the period of our observations, but the statistical significance of detecting the four remaining bursts in the light curves in the fairly soft energy range under consideration was lower than  $s_0$ . As we mentioned above, 69 more events detected by ISGRI were also detected by the anticoincidence shield of the SPI gamma-ray spectrometer, but were not detected by the GOES monitors, i.e., they are probably GRBs that occurred outside the IBIS field of view.

Even after the inclusion of all these events and 145 probable solar flares (events recorded by the GOES monitors), 748 bursts that were detected by IBIS/ISGRI, but were not unidentified remain. Some of them are undoubtedly associated with instrumental effects, for example, with the excitation of ISGRI elements for a short time. Many bursts turned out to be too weak to be reliably revealed in the image. We plan to continue our analysis of unidentified bursts and to present its results in a separate paper.

## DISCUSSION

The main goal of this study was to search for new X-ray bursters in a low (off) state and transient bursters with low persistent luminosities. We discovered one hitherto unknown burster named IGR J17364-2711 during its burst.

Is this number large or small for a  $\sim 3.4$  Ms exposure of the Galactic center region (see Fig. 1)? First, let us estimate the burst recurrence time for the new source:

$$\tau = \alpha T F / F_X \simeq 6 \times 10^8 \text{ s} \simeq 20 \text{ years.}$$

Here,  $\alpha \sim 100$  is a factor that shows the efficiency of energy release via accretion compared to energy release via thermonuclear burning on the neutron star surface. We assumed all of the bursts from this source to be similar to the burst detected by the ISGRI detector, i.e., to have a duration  $T \simeq 13$  s and a maximum flux  $F \simeq 1.6$  Crab, and took the persistent photon flux from the source to be  $F_X \simeq 3 \times 10^{-6}$  Crab in the energy range 15–25 keV

(which corresponds to a typical (for low-mass X-ray binaries) off-state 2–30 keV luminosity  $L_X \simeq 1 \times 10^{33} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$  at a distance of 8.5 kpc for a spectrum similar to that of the Crab Nebula). The detection of only one burst in  $\sim 3.4$  Ms of observations implies that there can be no more than 180 such binaries in this Galactic region where we simultaneously observe up to 80% ( $4 \times 10^9 M_\odot$  in a  $\sim 8^\circ \times 8^\circ$  field) of the Galactic bulge stars, not counting the stars ( $3 \times 10^9 M_\odot$ ) of other Galactic components (see Grebenev et al. 1996). This number is comparable to the number of persistent and transient sources, including the bursters, known in the field. More severe constraints on the number of unknown bursters that are constantly in a low (off) state can be obtained using the X-ray luminosity function of the Galaxy (see, e.g., Emelyanov et al. 2001). However, given the hard energy range in which bursts were observed and the related selection of their sources, caution should be exercised here.

Indeed, the X-ray bursts detected by the IBIS/ISGRI telescope and presented in Table 2 differ not so much by the high intensity as by the spectral hardness, which allows their sources to be separated into a special group of bursters. During most of the observations, other known bursters with a high and stable burst rate (GS1826-238, A1742-294, 4U1820-303, 4U1705-440, 4U1735-444, and others) were constantly within the IBIS field of view. No burst was detected from them. At the same time, for example, 61 bursts were detected from GX 354-0, which accounts for more than half of all the ISGRI events identified with bursters. This result cannot be explained by the selection effect; it suggests that the behavior of the source itself is peculiar.

Many of the detected bursts have a double-peaked time profile (see Fig. 3). Generally, this suggests that a critical Eddington flux is reached during a thermonuclear explosion on the neutron star surface; as a result, the atmosphere of the neutron star begins to outflow and its photosphere begins to expand. The expansion of the photosphere is accompanied by its cooling. This gives rise to a dip in the time profile, which is particularly large at hard energies, and to a double-peaked structure. This picture is complicated by Comptonization effects, which increase in importance in a radiation-dominated medium, and by peculiarities of the thermonuclear reactions. Unfortunately, in most cases, we failed to obtain the burst time profiles in the standard X-ray energy range. The JEM-X field of view is only  $\sim 15\%$  of the IBIS field of view. Therefore, the JEM-X monitor was able to observe only 28 of the 97 IBIS bursts under consideration.

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